

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 957 – SB 1256**

March 13, 2019

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes local government entities to publish required legal notices on publicly available websites under certain circumstances in lieu of other publication methods.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$50,000/One-Time/Permissive**

**Decrease Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$500,000/Recurring**

**Assumptions:**

- Local government entities are required to make various publications in a newspaper of general circulation of the local government.
- The proposed legislation would authorize local government entities to publish legal notices on their websites in lieu of publishing such notices in a newspaper if the entity indexes the notices, displays notice in the court house or governmental entity's offices, and posting the website for where the legal notices can be found in a newspaper of general circulation or in a radio or television ad.
- Based on responses to the 2017 Local Government Survey conducted by the Fiscal Review Committee staff, participating county and municipal government officials reported publishing 4,484 legal notices for a total cost of \$508,825 statewide.
- Due to multiple unknown variables, such as the precise number of local government entities statewide, the number of entities who have a website capable of indexing and storing legal notices, the number of legal notices which will be published on an entity website in lieu of newspaper publication, and the cost of such notifications, a precise recurring decrease in local government expenditures cannot be determined, but is reasonably estimated to exceed \$500,000 statewide.
- Due to multiple unknown variables a precise one-time permissive increase in local government expenditures for publication of a newspaper notification or television ad indicating the website where notifications may be found is estimated to exceed \$50,000.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jrh